

February 15, 1973

the reason for the bill.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I thought it related to the amendment because you cut down from two years to one and...

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Well, the reason for the one to two years is that if the individual is capable of doing this and has met all of the tests it's ridiculous to wait more than... there is nothing that will make him anymore qualified or make it any safer the second...by waiting two years than one year. In other words, one year is ample time to find out how he is adjusted to this fact.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion? This is a committee amendment as explained by Senator Luedtke. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed no. The committee amendment is adopted. Are there further amendments. Further committee amendments.

CLERK: None.

SPEAKER: Are there any amendments on the desk?

CLERK: None.

SPEAKER: Senator Luedtke, what will you do with the bill?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, I move that LB 126 be advanced to E & R Initial. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is another one of the Judiciary Committees bills coming about as a result of our interim committee, the advisory committee on law enforcement justice, concerning correctional reform in the state of Nebraska. It particularly deals with the ex-offender and the use of that ex-offender as a Probation or Parole Officer or Deputy Officer if he has maintained a record free of arrests except minor traffic violation for a year preceding such appointment. Now, the reason for this is simply this that when you talk to inmates in institutions, when you confer with officials who have correctional institutional responsibility, counseling becomes one of the great problems and this is particularly so when the individual is out on probation. If there is just someone that they can talk to and we have such a tremendous ratio of parolees or probationers now to a counselor or to a probation officer that it's really very, very tough anyway. But if they had someone they could talk to, they could explain their problems to that they felt would understand their problem, it would help immensely in keeping them in line and keeping them from going off the beaten path and jumping off of the straight and narrow line that they have to walk when they are on probation. This has been recommended by the National Correctional Association. It has been recommended by correctional officers throughout the United States and in our own state. It's been attested to by the warden of our Penal complex. It follows that people who can talk to a person who has been through it are going to be able to tell more and relate more and have more trust in than someone who has not really walked in their shoes as would be the case here.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Are you ready for the question? The question is shall the bill advance. All those in favor vote aye. Those opposed vote no. The clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, 23 not voting.

SPEAKER: The bill is advanced. LB 159. The clerk will read.

CLERK: Read title. LB 159.

SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Clerk. Sorry for interrupting. Senator Stahmer had a request. Is he here? The clerk will continue to read.